

REMARKS

Applicant recognizes with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that Claims 7 – 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 2 to specify certain embodiment of the present invention and overcome the rejection. Claim 7 has been amended to independent form to include features of original Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amendment. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 – 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over by Kashimura. (US 5,381,179), hereinafter Kashimura, in view of Kamamoto et al. (US 5, 829,429), hereinafter Kamamoto.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Kashimura in view of Kamamoto. More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to clearly define that the camera-equipped recording/reproducing apparatus has the imaging device 13A that converts light from the lens assembly 1 into an electrical signal, as disclosed on page 4, lines 23 – 25 of the specification.

The Examiner alleges that Kashimura discloses a grip 4 provided on the second side face of the body, the grip housing a recording/reproducing unit 7. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kashimura disclosed that a casing 1 (camera body) has a camera portion and a recorder portion 13 (see col. 13, lines 18 – 20), and a grip portion 4 has an electronic viewfinder EVF, a zoom operating switch 8 and a recording

trigger switch 7 (see col. 3, lines 35 – 38). Therefore, it is clear that the recorder portion 13, as disclosed in Kashimura, is not housed in the grip portion 4, but the camera body 1, as shown in Fig. 4.

Although the original Claim 1 is different from Kashimura, as discussed above, the currently presented Claim 1 has been amended such that a storage medium for storing a video signal output by the imaging device housed in the body can be loaded into the recording/reproducing unit housed in the grip, which is not disclosed nor taught by Kashimura.

The Examiner further alleges that Kashimura discloses the grip mechanism defined in Claim 3. However, what the Examiner pointed out is only that the grip 4 has specific length and width and is placed at a certain position on the body of the camera. Applicant respectfully submits that the grip mechanism defined in Claim 3 is not disclosed or taught by Kashimura. The support for the grip mechanism as defined in Claim 3 can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 13, lines 29 through page 14, lines 5 – 13; and page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 3.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that there are significant differences between the embodiments of the present invention and the teaching of Kashimura in view of Kamamoto. There is no motivation to combine Kashimura with Kamamoto. Even if they are combined, they will not render the present invention as mended obvious.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Kashimura in view of Kamamoto and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

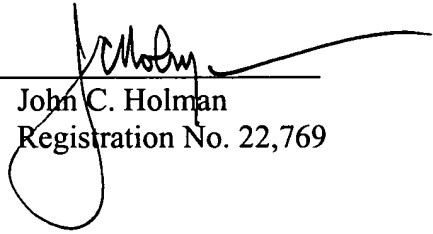
Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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